



June 26, 2015

To: Executive Board

Subject: **Environmental and Sustainability Management System - ISO 14001 Certification**

Recommendation

Receive and file an update on Foothill Transit's receipt of International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 14001 certification for its Environmental and Sustainability Management System (ESMS) at the Pomona Operations and Maintenance Facility.

Analysis

An ESMS is a comprehensive set of procedures, based on an environmental policy that manages an organization's environmental impacts in a strategic manner. Each procedure reflects one of 17 required elements of an ESMS, mandated in the ISO 14001:2004 environmental management standards. The 17 elements are listed below:

1. *Environmental Policy*
2. *Environmental Aspects*
3. *Legal and Other Requirements*
4. *Objectives, Targets, and Programs*
5. *Resources, Roles, Responsibilities, and Authority*
6. *Competence, Training, and Awareness*
7. *Communication*
8. *Documentation*
9. *Control of Documents*
10. *Operational Control and Contractor Management*
11. *Emergency Preparedness and Response*
12. *Monitoring and Measurement*
13. *Evaluation of Compliance*
14. *Nonconformity, Corrective, and Preventative Action*
15. *Control of Records*
16. *Internal Audit*
17. *Management Review*

The implementation of an ESMS has been supported by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) as "the clearest commitment of an agency to demonstrate environmental stewardship and sustainability." In 2010 and 2013



Foothill Transit participated in a rigorous training funded by the FTA and administered by Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech). Over the course of 18 months, Virginia Tech aided Foothill Transit in the development and implementation of an ESMS at the Arcadia and Pomona Operations and Maintenance Facility, following the ISO 14001 standards.

Foothill Transit is among very few transit agencies in the nation operating a transit maintenance facility under world class ISO 14001 standards.

As part of the ESMS program, every year Foothill Transit identifies all environmental aspects associated with the daily operational activities at the maintenance facility. All actual and potential environmental impacts, from bus washing to disposal of batteries, are considered. Then, a select number of activities are chosen as “significant environmental aspects.” These aspects are critically focused on and objectives and targets are developed to mitigate each one.

Foothill Transit has realized significant accomplishments as a result of the first cycle of program implementation at the Pomona Operations and Maintenance Facility. The specific achievements are detailed below.

- The first goal was to comply with Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s (OSHA) Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) training for our Pomona contractor’s staff who handle hazardous materials. The training course is for general site workers who remove hazardous waste or who are exposed or potentially exposed to hazardous substances or health hazards. The training was completed on April 2, 2015.
- The second goal was to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and energy consumption by 20 percent by January 1, 2014. To meet this goal, a solar photovoltaic (PV) system was installed and began producing solar energy in January 2012. To date, Foothill Transit has generated over 384,126 kilowatt hours of clean, solar power and saved 276 tons of CO₂. In the last three years we received \$57,097 in incentives from our utility provider, Southern California Edison.
- The third goal was to reduce bus emissions by five percent through electrification of Line 291 by March 1, 2015. As of March 1, 2015, full



electrification of line 291 resulted in a 5.91% reduction in CO2 emissions equating to over one million pounds of CO2.

- The fourth and final goal was to reduce fuel consumption from idling by 5 percent. To accomplish this goal, an agency-wide Idle Reduction Policy was developed and implemented that limited idling time to five minutes or fewer while Foothill Transit vehicles were in operation. Since the policy went into effect, bus idling at the Pomona Operations and Maintenance Facility has been reduced by 18 percent, exceeding our original goal.

Budget Impact

There is no budget impact from the recommended action. The certification is valid for three years and requires two annual surveillance audits, each at a cost of approximately \$2,500. The \$4,375 cost of the certifying audit for 2015 was included in the proposed FY 14-15 Business Plan and Budget. Funding for the 2016 surveillance audit is included in the approved FY 15-16 business plan. Costs of future surveillance audits will be included in future business plans.

Sincerely,



Roland M. Cordero
Director of Maintenance & Vehicle Technology



Doran J. Barnes
Executive Director